

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging a required number of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) LEDs, comprising the steps of:

storing characteristic values of each of said LEDs measured in a characteristic measurement;
temporarily keeping said LEDs after storing said characteristic values; and
rearranging said LEDs to make said characteristic values of each adjacent LEDs substantially equal.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein each of said adjacent LEDs are arranged so that the characteristic value of one LED is not larger than that of another LED.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein a predetermined number of the LEDs are rearranged to make said characteristic values of each adjacent LEDs substantially equal, after said LEDs are measured and temporarily kept.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said characteristic value is comprises a light intensity of said LEDs.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging light-emitting elements, comprising the steps of:

storing characteristic values of ~~each~~ of said light-emitting elements measured in a characteristic measurement;

temporarily keeping said light-emitting elements after storing said characteristic values; and

rearranging said light-emitting elements to make said characteristic values of ~~each~~ adjacent light-emitting elements substantially equal.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein ~~each~~ of said adjacent light-emitting elements are arranged so that the characteristic value of one light-emitting element is not larger than that of another light-emitting element.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein a predetermined number of the light-emitting elements are rearranged to make said characteristic values of ~~each~~ adjacent light-emitting elements substantially equal, after said light-emitting elements are measured and temporarily kept.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein said characteristic value is comprises a light intensity of said light-emitting elements.

9. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said characteristic value comprises at least one of light intensity, forward voltage, wavelength and chromaticity.

10. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said LEDs are arranged beginning with an LED having a smallest characteristic value of said LEDs to an LED having a largest characteristic value of said LEDs.
11. (New) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein said light-emitting elements are arranged beginning with a light-emitting element having a smallest characteristic value of said light-emitting elements to a light-emitting element having a largest characteristic value of said light-emitting elements.
12. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, further comprising:
generating an arrangement sequence on a memory of a computer to make said characteristic values of adjacent LEDs substantially equal,
wherein said rearranging is conducted based on said arrangement sequence.
13. (New) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, further comprising:
generating an arrangement sequence on a memory of a computer to make said characteristic values of adjacent light-emitting elements substantially equal,
wherein said rearranging is conducted based on said arrangement sequence.
14. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said temporarily storing comprises ranking each of said LEDs with a temporary number by said characteristic value.

15. (New) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein said temporarily storing comprises ranking said light-emitting elements with a temporary number by said characteristic value.
16. (New) An apparatus for arranging a number of LEDs, comprising:
 - a characteristic value measuring unit that performs a characteristic measurement on the LEDs to obtain a characteristic value for the LEDs;
 - an arrangement sequence calculation unit that generates an arrangement sequence of the LEDs such that a difference between the characteristic value of adjacent LEDs is minimized; and
 - a rearrangement unit for rearranging the LEDs in accordance with said arrangement sequence.
17. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said rearranging said LEDs comprises sorting said LEDs according to a predetermined algorithm
18. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said rearranging said LEDs comprises arranging said LEDs on a tape.
19. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said rearranging said LEDs comprises arranging said LEDs on a palette.